

"Innocence" (Imogen and the sheep)

Images of children and sheep have been used in art, over time to communicate innocence. We know of many examples using either a child or a sheep to convey this. I didn't know of an incident where both a child and a sheep co existed as symbols of innocence in the one composition.

With children used as a symbol of innocence, the viewer may forget aspects of the adult world. Innocence, wonder learning and questions, are unique to a child's world.

The initial idea behind this photo was reactionary. As the young girl was lost in her thoughts and stillness, I shot off some images of the beauty of the moment in front of me.

In the adult world there are many ambiguities for children, why is this sheep not moving? is it real? why is it alone in this room? can I go nearer? will I frighten it?

Experiences and gauging of what might happen fill a child's world with wonder.

As an observer to this image, the similarities are interesting between the child and the sheep (the subtlety of their stance). The overall colouring of the composition is one of warmth and tranquillity.

Finally people speak of the hanging of art works and its impact. These two images experienced by themselves will cause an individual interpretation by the viewer, but when hung beside each other pose the question of does a relationship exist between these two works and does the hanging of these with each other re adjust our experience of the works?

John Roch Simons
www.themol.com

